(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Armed Forces will release the spectrum out of Defence usage, in a time bound manner as per the triggers of MoU As per the clause in MoU, Ministry of Defence has already released 10 MHz.

(e) As per the decisions of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), DoT has decided to auction upto 20 MHz of paired 3G spectrum in the 2.1 GHz band in the telecom service areas where 25 MHz or more paired spectrum is available. In telecom service areas where less than 25 MHz paired spectrum is available in the 2.1 GHz band, the actual amount of available spectrum in blocks of 2X5 MHz would be auctioned. Auction would be conducted according to the Revised Information memorandum issued on 23/10/2009 and published on Department of Telecommunications (DoT) website.

Kudumbini project

1538. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has submitted a proposal to set up a project entitled "Kudumbini" to provide BPO facility for women at home on a pilot basis in Kozhikode district of Kerala with a total project cost of Rs.575 lakh; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Government of Kerala vide its letter - DO N0.4332/B1/2008/ITD dated 27.09.2008 has submitted a proposal for "Kudumbini Women BPO".

(b) This project proposal was for utilizing the power of ICT to distribute work spatially and provide supplementary income to women who are otherwise unable to go out for work. The Department has decided not to provide any financial support for the project.

Special data infrastructure

1539. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI P. RAJEEVE:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides financial assistance to the States to set up special data infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether Government has provided financial assistance to the State of Kerala in this regard; and

(c) whether any steps had been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has approved a project for setting up of "State Data Center" for the State of Kerala in March 2008 with a total outlay of Rs.55.68 crores to meet the capital and operational expenses over a period of 5 years. An amount of Rs.11.63 crores has been released so far in this regard.

Surplus staff with BSNL/MTNL

1540. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of officers working with BSNL and MTNL on deputation have been repatriated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL and BSNL are presently overloaded with the staff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the surplus staff with MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, no mass repatriation of officers working with BSNL and MTNL have taken place in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The expenditure of BSNL on manpower is about 33% of its total income as compared to 5-8% in case of its competitors. BSNL has engaged M/s 'Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for advising and providing handholding support in identifying problems and developing strategy keeping in view the changed market conditions.

The expenditure of MTNL on manpower is about 45% of its total income. In order to rationalize manpower, MTNL has introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 for different groups of employees. The details are as below:

Scheme	No. of employees who accepted VRS
VRS-2004 (Non Executives)	1951
VRS-2005 (Executives Grp.B only)	604
VRS-2006 (Non Executives)	1382
TOTAL :	3947